

1. In a networked system that includes a client and a server, a method for dynamically obtaining at least a portion of an application from the server over a network, the method comprising:

determining, at a local client device, that at least a portion of an application is needed at the local client device, wherein the portion is located at a remote server device; and

using a file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device, wherein the portion is obtained so as to be transparent to the user and as needed by the local client device.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the local client device is a television.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the local client device is an Aquos TV.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device comprises using an internet file system protocol.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device comprises using a network file system (NFS) protocol.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device comprises using a common internet file system (CIFS) protocol.

5 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device is initiated at the local client device.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step for using the file  
10 system protocol to dynamically obtain at least another portion of the application from another remote server device.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step for using the file  
15 system protocol to dynamically obtain at least a portion of another application from another remote server device.

10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for determining that at least a portion of an application is needed at the local client device further comprises a step for sending an event from the remote server device to the local client device to indicate an  
20 availability of the application.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the application is a new application.

12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device is initiated at the local client device after receiving the event from the remote server device about the availability of the new application .

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13. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server device is initiated at the local client device after receiving input from a user.

10 14. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user input is received by the local client device from a remote control device.

15 15. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the application is a new application, and wherein the method further comprises a step for monitoring a location on the remote server device to determine whether the new application is available.

16. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step for sending an event from the remote server device to the local client device to indicate at least one of

(i) a removal of a first application; and

20 (ii) a modification to a particular application.

17. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step for monitoring a location on the remote server device to determine at least one of:

- (i) whether a first application is removed; and
- (ii) whether a particular application is modified.

18. A networked system comprising:

a client, wherein the client includes a television that provides programming content;

a server coupled to the client via a network, wherein the server includes an application remotely preserved for the client; and

a file system protocol employed by the client and the server to allow the client to obtain at least a portion of the application remotely preserved for the client on an as-needed basis.

19. A networked system as recited in claim 18, wherein the client is an Aquos TV.

20. A networked system as recited in claim 18, wherein the file system protocol is an internet file system protocol.

21. A networked system as recited in claim 18, wherein the file system protocol is a network file system (NFS) protocol.

22. A networked system as recited in claim 18, wherein the file system protocol is a common internet file system (CIFS) protocol.

23. A networked system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a second server coupled to the network, wherein the second server includes another portion of the application remotely preserved for the client, and wherein the file system protocol is dynamically employed by the client to allow the client to obtain the another portion of the application on  
5 an as-needed basis.

24. A networked system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a second server coupled to the network, wherein the second server includes another application remotely preserved for the client, and wherein the file system protocol is dynamically  
10 employed by the client to allow the client to obtain at least a portion of the another application on an as-needed basis.

25. A networked system as recited in claim 18, further comprising an event transmitted from the server to the client to indicate at least one of:

15 (i) an availability of the application;

(ii) that a current application has been removed; and

(iii) that a particular application has been modified.

26. A networked system as recited in claim 25, wherein the available application  
20 is a new application.

27. A networked system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a location on the server that is monitored by the client to determine at least one of:

- (i) that a new application is available;
- (ii) that a particular application has been removed; and
- (iii) that a current application has been modified.

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28. A computer program product for implementing within a networked system a method for dynamically obtaining at least a portion of an application from a server over a network, the computer program product comprising:

5 a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

determining, at a local client computer device, that at least a portion of an application is needed at the local client computer device, wherein the portion is located at a remote server computer device; and

10 using a file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server computer device, wherein the portion is obtained so as to be transparent to the user and as needed by the local client computer device.

29. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the local client  
15 computer device is a television.

30. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the local client computer device is an Aquos TV.



31. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server computer device comprises one of:

- (i) using an internet file system protocol;
- 5 (ii) using a network file system (NFS) protocol; and
- (iii) using a common internet file system (CIFS) protocol.

32. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server computer device is initiated at the local client computer device.

33. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain at least another portion of the application from another remote server computer device.

34. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for using the file system protocol to dynamically obtain at least a portion of another application from another remote server computer device.

35. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for determining that at least a portion of an application is needed at the local client computer device further comprises a step for sending an event from the remote server computer device to the local client computer device to indicate an availability of the application.

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36. A computer program product as recited in claim 35, wherein the application is a new application.

37. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for using  
10 the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server computer device is initiated at the local client computer device after receiving the event from the server about the availability of the new application .

38. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for using  
15 the file system protocol to dynamically obtain the portion from the remote server computer device is initiated at the local client computer device upon receiving input from a user.

39. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the user input is received by the local client computer device from a remote control device.

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40. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the application is a new application, and further comprising a step for monitoring a location on the remote server computer device to determine whether the new application is available.

41. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, further comprising a step for sending an event from the remote server computer device to the local client computer device to indicate at least one of

- (i) a removal of a first application; and
- 5 (ii) a modification to a particular application.

42. A computer program product as recited in claim 39, further comprising a step for monitoring a location on the remote server computer device to determine at least one of:

- (i) whether a first application is removed; and
- 10 (ii) whether a particular application is modified.